

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090170

FOL TEL SENT SECSTATE INFO AMMAN, JIDDA, KUWAIT, MOSCOW, PARIS,
ROME, TEL AVIV, TRIPOLI, USUN NY FROM LONDON MAY 10 TH:

QUOTE: LONDON 5484

DEPT PASS CAIRO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF, UN, UR, US

SUBJECT: CURRENT EGYPTIAN CONCERNS

SUMMARY: DURING FISHING EXPEDITION RELATING TO
KISSINGER VISIT AND UPCOMING ME DEBATE IN UN, EGYPTIAN
EMBOFF RELATED TO US NEGATIVE REACTION OF HIS CONTACT
IN SOVIET EMBASSY HERE AND GAVE AS HIS OWN PERSONAL
OPINION THAT EGYPT WILL NOT INITIATE HOSTILITIES ALONG
SUEZ CANAL AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER IT SEES WHAT TRANSPIRES
IN UN DEBATE. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT EGYPTIAN EMBASSY
HERE RARELY RECEIVES INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAIRO. END
SUMMARY.

1. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON US MAY 10 TO
INQUIRE ABOUT RUMORS HE HAD PICKED UP IN LONDON AND
REPORTED TO CAIRO. ONE WAS THAT SOVIETS HAD GIVEN
MR. KISSINGER IN MOSCOW THEIR SUGGESTIONS FOR ME
SETTLEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH UPCOMING UN DEBATE AND
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KISSINGER PRESENTLY RELAYING THESE TO BRITISH. ANOTHER WAS BRITISH- FRENCH IDEA FOR A SUBCOMMITTEE OF UNSC MEMBERS TO ACT AS UMBRELLA UNDER WHICH PROXIMITY TALKS MIGHT TAKE PLACE, WITH SYG WALDHEIM PERHAPS CHAIRING. EGYPTIAN EMBOFF NOTED EBAN'S NEGATIVE PUBLIC REACTION DAY BEFORE AND ASKED FOR OUR COMMENT.

2. WE TOLD HIM WE COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF WHAT MAY HAVE TRANSPIRED IN KISSINGER VISIT TO MOSCOW OR TALKS HERE, WHICH OF COURSE RELATED PRIMARILY TO EUROPEAN SITUATION. HE SAID SOVIET EMBASSY CONTACT HAD TOLD HIM SOVIETS HAD RECEIVED NO INFORMATION FROM MOSCOW AND THEN SPECULATED THAT US- SOVIET DISCUSSIONS ON ME WERE LIKELY TO BE PERIPHERAL TO OTHER ASPECTS OF TALKS.

3. ON UNSC SUBCOMMITTEE RUMOR WE TOLD EGYPTIAN THAT HIS SPECULATION WENT BEYOND ANYTHING WE HAD HEARD TO DATE. WHEN HE PRODDER FOR USG REACTION TO IDEA, WE SAID WE COULD NOT KNOW THIS FAR IN ADVANCE. MUCH PROBABLY WILL DEPEND ON SPECIFICS INVOLVED AND ANY OTHER IDEAS THAT MAY BE PUT FORWARD DURING THE DEBATE. WE REPEATED TO HIM GENERAL USG ATTITUDE WELCOMING ANY EFFORTS TO BRING PARTIES IN ME CLOSER TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, AND SUPPOSED THAT WOULD COVER ANYTHING SYG WALDHEIM MAY DECIDE TO ATTEMPT. EGYPTIAN COMMENTED THAT OUR REPLY WAS NONCOMMITTAL, AND WE DID NOT APPEAR ENTHUSIASTIC. WE DID NOT DEMUR.

4. IN REPLY TO OUR QUESTION EGYPTIAN EMBOFF SAID HE WAS NOT RPT NOT ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAIRO. HE CONFIDED THAT EMBASSY " VERY SELDOM" RECEIVES INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAIRO. RATHER, IT INVESTIGATES LOCAL SITUATION AND REPORTS, ADDING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. LONDON'S RECOMMENDATIONS ARE INEVITABLY VERY MODERATE, HE ASSURED US.

5. IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION, HE VENTURED THE OPINION THERE WOULD BE NO RPT NO INITIATION OF HOSTILITIES BY EGYPT ALONG SUEZ CANAL AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER UPCOMING UN DEBATE. HE THOUGHT A " CHANGE IN THE STRATEGIC SITUATION" WOULD RESULT IF EGYPT SUCCEEDED

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IN PUSHING ISRAELIS TO A LINE ABOUT 10 MILES EAST OF CANAL. THIS MIGHT BE WITHIN EGYPTIAN MILITARY CAPABILITIES TO EFFECT, HE SAID, BUT ONLY AT A VERY HIGH PRICE. HE DID NOT BELIEVE PRESIDENT SADAT WAS PREPARED TO PAY SUCH A PRICE AT PRESENT. ANNENBERG UNQUOTE ROGERS

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